

LOVELORN YOUTH SEEKS TO END LIFE

Aims at His Heart, but Misses
Its Location by One Inch
Margin.

IN DANGEROUS CONDITION

Wounded Man, Who Now De-
sires to Live, Has Fair Chance
for Recovery.

William Merkle, twenty-two years
old, of 1117 East Main Street, dis-
patched in love, tried to end his life
yesterday afternoon with a .32 cal-
iber Smith & Wesson pistol. That he
is in the City Hospital with a fighting
chance for recovery is due solely to
a miscalculation of one inch in aim-
ing at his heart.

Merkle's brother, together with other
members of the family, were start-
led yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock
by the sound of a pistol shot. Rush-
ing into the sitting-room, they found
young Merkle with a smoking pistol
in his hand, preparing to send another
bullet into his body. His brother was
quick enough to prevent the carrying
out of the design, and succeeded in
knocking the pistol aside. The bullet
hit the ceiling and fell harmlessly to
the floor.

The wounded man staggered to his
knees with blood flowing from a
wound in the breast, and a call was
sent in at once for the ambulance.
Dr. R. E. Watts responded and made
a hurried examination. He found that
the bullet entered just above the
heart, instead of hitting it, through
no fault of the would-be-suicide,
whose heart is about one inch lower
than the normal position.

"Well, you almost hit it, but not
quite," said Dr. Watts to the wound-
ed man.

"Yes, I tried my best to hit it," he
replied.

In Dangerous Condition

At the City Hospital, where he was
taken at once, the examination re-
vealed a dangerous wound in the
breast, from which, under the most fa-
vorable circumstances, recovery will
be difficult. Unless pneumonia should
develop, it was stated, the patient has
a fair chance to live.

From despondency which pre-
ceded his act, Merkle has rallied con-
siderably and manifests a strong de-
sire to live. He has remained con-
scious from the beginning and de-
clines to discuss the reasons which
prompted him to end his life. From
members of the family, however, it
was learned that the young man has
been independent over a love affair.

Nothing but a pardonable ignorance
of his own anatomy, assert the phy-
sicians, prevented him from carrying
out his intention. He aimed directly
at the place where his heart ought to
have been, but where, by a freak of
nature, it was not. The pistol was so
close that his clothing caught fire, and
was burning when his brother rushed
in upon him and put it out.

SEEKS BOY'S PARENTS

Lost Child Unable to Tell Police Where
He Lives.

The police of the First District last
night exhausted every effort to lo-
cate the parent of a boy who said his
name was Walter Hawkins, ten years
old. He was found early in the even-
ing in College Alley by Bicycle Pol-
ice Officer H. H. Blythe. He had a huge
quantity of matches, was striking them
and throwing the flaming bits in all di-
rections.

Asked by the officer where he lived,
the boy was unable to tell. He said
that his father was engaged in the
insurance business, and that he had
been in Richmond only three days. It
was gathered from him after much
questioning that he came to Richmond
from Alexandria, Va. No report of a
lost boy being made to the police.

Each Accuses the Other

Charlotte Harris and Lucy Jefferson,
colored, were arrested yesterday on
cross-warrants each accusing the other
of assault and battery.

STATE HAS RIGHT TO SHOOT WOMAN

Indeed, She Invites It, but Then,
of Course, She Is Perfectly
Safe.

In reply to a query from the State
Prosecutor as to what she thought
of the right to shoot a woman, the
latter said she was in the line of fire
at the new State rifle range, the woman
in question says she won't do
anything about it. She owns her
home and lives in it, and, admitting
the right of the military, by deed,
to shoot over it, she says she will
take the chances.

Now these rights were secured af-
ter much trouble and great difficulty.
A land company had developed a nar-
row piece of property between the
range and camp site near Virginia
Beach, and had sold it. It is pro-
posed to fire toward the ocean. Most
of the bullets will go into a sand
dune, but some will fly over the lots
and over the water.

The State has a perfect right to
shoot this householder. She invites
such action. But public sentiment
may be encountered, and nobody wants
to kill her, anyway. It is now a
question whether or not the fear of
shooting her will break up the use
of the range.

**THE SAVINGS BANK
OF RICHMOND**
117 E. MAIN ST.

Prudent examinations, close su-
pervision and prudent management
has made our bank safe as the
vault.

UNITED STATES DEPOSITORY

EVERYBODY MUST WEAR TAG TO-DAY

And If You Are Seen Without
One, You'll Get Rather Bad
Rating.

TO HELP WORTHY CHARITY

Stations, With Women in Charge,
Will Be Located on All Ave-
nues of Travel.

For the Instructive Visiting Nurses'
Association, this is the most important
day of the year. Hundreds of earnest
women have been planning for it for
weeks, and will be occupied to-day
in piloting it to a successful end. It
is the annual Tag Day, dedicated to
the revenue of the association by of-
ficial proclamation of the Mayor.

A number of the most prominent
women in the city will begin at 9
o'clock this morning to solicit contribu-
tions from the general public in the
aid of the Instructive Visiting Nurses'
Association, an organization devoted
to the training of nurses and to min-
istering to the needy ill. Aside from
a small annual appropriation by the
city, and fees paid to it by a promi-
nent life insurance company, the as-
sociation is dependent wholly upon the
public for its support.

The revenues required for the main-
tenance of the institution, in addition
to those already mentioned, are de-
rived from individual donations, and
from dues paid by a limited mem-
bership. Only upon Tag Day does the
association make public appeal for
help. The receipts on this day go a
long way in paying the necessary ex-
penses of operation, but for the past
year or two have not been large
enough to prevent a deficit from show-
ing at the end of the year.

Join the Tag Army

Stations where one may secure a
tag and deposit his offering in the
pocket where the masses gather for
business or recreation. At the large
department stores, at corner drug
stores, at railroad stations, clubs, cin-
emas and factories, deputies will
stand ready to receive contributions
and to append the red tag to one's
coat lapel as a sign that toll has
been paid. Strict orders have been
issued that no one wearing a tag shall
be solicited again.

Colored Minstrels

Jackson Ward Minstrellos at City
Auditorium To-Night.

The amateur dramatic bacillus has
crossed Broad Street and invaded the
colored colony. The result of the in-
fection will be the Minstrel Boys So-
ciety Minstrels, which will be pre-
sented at the City Auditorium to-night
by an aggregation of fifty young colored
men. The performance will be for the
benefit of the Colored Orphan Asylum.
The best talent of the colored popu-
lation has been recruited for the en-
tertainment, which will be the year's
biggest event among the colored citi-
zens. The show is planned on real-
ism. The troupe will have a grand
divided into two parts, and with a grand
street parade at 12:30 o'clock. Frank
Mayo is guiding the production as
manager, and "Gipsey" Smith has
charge of the music.

Among the individual stars the
press agent mentions J. Wilmer Turner
and Joe Hayes, the honey boys;
Egleston and Edwards, star comed-
ians, and White and Dyson, Jackson
Ward minstrellos. Seats will be re-
served for white people.

ACTORS HELD ON ROBBERY CHARGE

Two Who Recently Appeared at
Bijou Arrested on Norfolk
Warrants.

J. H. Wright and Jack McIntyre, ac-
tors, were arrested yesterday shortly
before noon at the Byrd Street Station
by Detectives Wiltshire and Atkinson.
They are said to be wanted in Nor-
folk on charges of grand larceny
and housebreaking. They looked upon
their arrest at first as a joke, but when
placed in a cell at the First Police
Station they regarded the matter more
seriously.

Wright and McIntyre were members
of the Billy B. Van Company, which re-
cently closed the season of "The Lucky
Duke" last week in Norfolk. The pre-
vious week they appeared in Rich-
mond at the Bijou Theatre. With
other members of the company they
left Norfolk yesterday morning en
route for New York. They arrived
here by way of the Norfolk and West-
ern Railway.

Barely half an hour before the
train's arrival a message was received
from Chief of Police Warner from Nor-
folk asking that they be arrested and
held.

Captain of Detectives Ford, of Nor-
folk, arrived in Richmond last night
and will return with the prisoners to-
day.

Suddenly Ill With Appendicitis

A. R. Ellis, of Philadelphia, who is
the guest of Mrs. Harry Ellis, at 17
West Grace Street, was taken
suddenly ill Saturday and removed to
the Virginia Hospital for an operation
for appendicitis. The operation was
performed and the patient is reported
as getting along nicely.

Negro Woman Found Dead

Signora Carter, colored, twenty-six
years old, was found dead in bed yester-
day morning at her home in the rear
of 1216 East Main Street. The
body was viewed by Coroner Taylor,
who pronounced death due to heart
disease.

HOLD NEGRO FOR ASSAULT ON NOBLE

George Davis Formally Charged
in Warrant With Easter
Sunday Crime.

ENTERS EMPHATIC DENIAL

Prisoner Picked Up for Fighting
Later Identified by Vic-
tim.

In the arrest of George Davis, col-
ored, thirty-five years old, the police
are certain that they have captured
the man who beat and robbed F. O.
W. Noble, of 619 Noble Avenue, Clinter
Park, on Easter Sunday in the office
of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Com-
pany, 320 South Tenth Street. Davis
was arrested Saturday night for street
fighting by Officer A. M. Smith. He
talked with the description of Noble's
assailant, and Smith yesterday after-
noon called upon him to identify the
prisoner. At First Police Station Noble
picked Davis from a crowd of several
negroes, and was positive in his iden-
tification.

A reward of \$25 was offered by the
father of the young man who was
robbed, and manager of the tobacco
company. When seen in his cell by a
reporter Davis firmly denied all
knowledge of the crime. He said that
he never frequented South Tenth
Street; that he was employed in a
jobbing house in the East End, and his
home was in Brook Avenue.

Following the identification of Davis
he had occasion to visit the office of
the factory on Easter Sunday after-
noon. He was alone, and passing
through the office he went to the rear
of the building, where he was de-
tained for some time.

Returning to the office he found the
man he identified going through a
wardrobe, and had upon his arm sev-
eral overcoats. With a cry the negro
dropped the coats and turned upon
Noble. A rough and tumble fight, which
continued for nearly half an hour,
the latter said, ensued. He was finally
overcome by Davis, pinned to the
floor and robbed of \$8 in cash. Davis
then fled.

Investigation the following day
showed that the negro had gained an
entrance to the building through a
rear window, and he was evidently in
the factory when Noble entered.
Following the identification of Davis
a warrant charging him with felon-
iously assaulting and robbing Noble
was sworn out, and he will probably
be given a preliminary hearing this
morning in Police Court.

CAUGHT IN ACT

Negro Woman Found Going Through
Pockets at Clothing Store.

Bertha Thompson, colored, was ar-
rested yesterday morning on a charge
of entering the home of Mrs. A. J.
Spratley, 1902 East Clay Street, and
attempting to rob a boarder, O. G.
Kirkland.

Kirkland was awakened after mid-
night, according to information given
the police, by a light in his room. He
glanced up and saw the woman sitting
on a chair going through his trousers
pockets. Jumping from bed, he
grabbed her. The First Police Sta-
tion was notified, and an officer was
sent for the woman, who was held a
prisoner until his arrival.

The woman was formerly employed
as a domestic in the home of Mrs.
Spratley, and, being familiar with the
surroundings, and little difficulty in
effecting an entrance.

WOULDN'T PAY FARE

Conductor Refuses Transfer and Has
Man Arrested.

Joe Wuld, thirty-four years old, a
blacksmith, was arrested yesterday af-
ternoon by Traffic Officer Hill for re-
fusing to pay his fare on a car of the
Highland Park division of the Vir-
ginia Railway and Power Company.

Wuld was given a transfer from a
Main Street car at Seventh and walked
from that point to Seventh and Broad
Streets, then he presented the trans-
fer. It was refused by the conductor.
The latter demanded an extra nickel,
and Wuld is said to have refused and
insisted upon continuing his trip.
Becoming persistent, the conductor
turned him over to Hill. He was
locked up at the Second Police Sta-
tion.

NEGRO SURRENDERS

Man Wanted for Shooting George Mor-
ton Gives Himself Up.

Leroy Williams, colored, wanted for
shooting George Morton, also colored,
last Thursday night, yesterday after-
noon surrendered himself to Bicycle
Police Officer Clarke. He was locked up
at the First Police Station. Morton
at the City Hospital with an ugly but
not serious wound in his thigh, and his
condition is believed to be critical.

In seeking to capture Leroy Wil-
liams at his home in Calhoun Street
yesterday afternoon, Detectives Kellam
and Krenzel mistook his
brother, Tom Williams, for him. The
latter is said to have drawn a revolver
and attempted to shoot the officers.
Drawing his gun, Krenzel fired one
bullet, wounding the negro in the leg.
He is also at the City Hospital.

It Was Mr. Micawber

Who said that the difference between misery
and happiness was two shillings per annum. The man
who spent A SHILLING MORE than he earned was
miserable; the man who spent A SHILLING LESS
was happy.

The difference in amount between comfort
and dependence may be a small one; but there is all the
difference in the world in the experience.

A business alliance with the

American National Bank

OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA,

will assist you in caring for what you accumulate
from day to day, making it easy for you to be among
those who spend A SHILLING LESS.

BUSINESS PEOPLE BEHIND NEW PLAN

Convention Idea Opposed, Not
Indorsed, by Politicians
Who Seek Power.

WILL CALL MASS-MEETING

Need of Electing Good Men on
Administrative Board Will
Be Shown.

Business men who have given the
question much attention declared yester-
day that the apparent opposition to
the convention plan of nominating
members of the Administrative Board
was due to an erroneous conception
as to the men behind the movement.
They explained that the movement was
being put forward by business men,
not by politicians, and that no state had
been made up or even suggested, that
the real value of the primary system
was broken down by the multitude of
candidates, and that the whole system
of city government, under the new
plan, will be ruined unless men of wise
business judgment, acknowledged ability
and wisdom are elected.

In order to convince the public that
it is not a political scheme, it was an-
nounced last night that a mass-meet-
ing will be called within the next week
and that prominent citizens would de-
liver addresses, in which they will un-
derstand to show the importance of de-
vising some plan for the good of the
entire community.

Need Good Members

"The thing is this," said a citizen
who has advocated the convention.
"We are soon to elect five men who are
to conduct a business amounting to
\$5,000,000 annually. They are clothed
with tremendous power. They elect
all city officers, except the City At-
torney, and they authorize the ex-
penditure of money and carry on
all the work now performed by the
Council members. If this Adminis-
trative Board idea is to be a success,
we must have strong men in office.
The public has a right to know some-
thing about the candidates for the
office. Do you suppose a corporation
would pick out a man earning less
than \$100 a month and pay him \$5,000
unless he had ability not previously
recognized? The fact that a man has
a big political following is all the
proof we have of his ability as a
business man who are not in politics on
the Administrative Board. Go to the
Hall and ask city employees what they
think of the convention idea. Go to
the ward politicians and ask their
opinion. You will find them howling
against it, and they are sincere in their
views."

"This movement is but forth in an
effort to get the Administrative Board
out of politics. The business people
are aroused to the importance of ac-
tion. They are not in favor of nomi-
nating anybody except men of experi-
ence. They want a different man in
office. They are making a sacrifice in serving
the city rather than men who will increase
their income 100, 500 or 1,000 per cent.
by going on the board. It is common
street talk that the city employees are
against the business movement. It
ought not to have a different man in
office. We have made a change of tremendous importance
in the management of city affairs, but it
will be a sorry day for Richmond un-
less men of experience and success and
ability are nominated as city man-
agers."

Business People Aroused

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INQUEST TO-DAY

Coroner Will Inquire Into Death of
Woman Who Was Murdered.

Coroner Taylor will conduct an in-
quest into the death of Lucinda Miller,
colored, who was found murdered Sat-
urday afternoon at her home in Con-
cord Street, this morning at 10 o'clock
in the City Hall.

The woman was found dead in her
bed with her skull crushed from a
blow from an axe. She had evidently
been killed on Thursday night. Her
body was locked at her home in Con-
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TEN NEW MEN SEEK SEATS IN COUNCIL

Fifteen Members Voluntarily Re-
tire From Public
Life.

THE HOLDOVER ALDERMEN

Seven Members of City Council
Now Aspire to Administra-
tive Board.

Forty candidates have entered the
race for the twenty-one seats in the
City Council to be filled at the Demo-
cratic primary a week from to-mor-
row. Fifteen men now members of the
City Council have voluntarily retired
from office by offering themselves for
re-election. Five members of the
present City Council are staying out
of the Council race with a view of of-
fering for the Administrative Board,
while two hold-over Aldermen not af-
fected by this primary will also enter
the contest. The men not offer-
ing for re-election are: Aldermen
H. H. Blythe, J. H. Gilman, H. H.
Pollard, Jr., and W. W. Workman.

Only twenty-five of the thirty-nine
members of the present Common Coun-
cil are offering for re-election, with
four of the hold-over Aldermen. These
with the nine new men, make thirty-
eight candidates for the twenty seats
in the new Common Council.

Councilman Blake is offering for
the vacant seat in the Board of Alder-
men in Clay Ward, to succeed Presi-
dent Whittey, who retires to run for
the Administrative Board. Mr. Blake
will be opposed by Ordway Puller.

New Men Offering

New men seeking to enter the Com-
mon Council are: In Jefferson Ward,
B. Gallagher, Joseph B. Welsh and E.
C. Davidson. All of the ten candidates
in new Madison Ward are now mem-
bers of the City Council—seven now
in the Council and three in the Board
of Aldermen.

The following men voluntarily retire
from public life at this time, not hav-
ing announced themselves for re-elec-
tion as candidates for any other
office: Aldermen C. P. Coward, Jr.,
Joseph M. Kain, James A. Moncure and
R. G. Reynolds; Councilmen W. H.
Boehman, Barney Bowman, W. H.
Bradley, L. R. Brown, E. H. Ferguson,
R. A. Gill, Clifton H. Miller, H. H.
Pollard, Jr., W. Fred Richardson,
James H. Pliner, W. W. Workman.

Some of these have been for many
years active and useful members of
the Council, and their loss will be felt.
The following are the names of the
prospective candidates for the Adminis-
trative Board: Messrs. Gunst and
Don Leavy, also candidates for the
Administrative Board, are hold-over
members.

Hold-Over Aldermen

With the one vacancy in Clay Ward
to be filled by the selection between
Mr. Blake and Mr. Puller, the new
Board of Aldermen, made up other-
wise of hold-over members, will be
composed of the following: H. H.
Blythe, J. H. Gilman, H. H. Pollard,
John R. Grimes, Barton H. Grundy,
Marx Gunst, H. W. Melton, John J.
Mitchell, A. C. Nelson, J. R. Perdue
and Joseph E. Powers, making a Board
of thirteen members. By the accident
of redistricting, Jefferson and Lee
Wards each will have one extra Al-
derman until the end of the terms for
which they were elected.

In the election to be held a week
from to-morrow five men have been
selected for the Common Council in
each of the four wards, making a
Common Council of twenty members,
to take office September 1 next. Clay
ward has eight candidates—six old
members and two newcomers. Lee Ward
has nine candidates—five old members
and four new ones. Madison Ward
has ten candidates—all old hands,
seven of them living north of the
river and three in South Richmond.
Jefferson Ward has eleven candidates
—eight present members and three
new ones.

No Polling Places Yet Named.
With the confusion in ward and pre-
cinct lines consequent on redistricting,
it seems hard to approximate the vote,
and because of the impossibility of fig-
uring with certainty on the result until
the last ballots have been tabulated
and the returns submitted. No list has
as yet been announced of the polling
places in each of the new precincts,
and because of the possibility of trans-
ferring the City Committee has
ruled that a Democratic voter may
cast his ballot at whatever precinct he
finds his name registered.

IN DURHAM COUNTY JAIL

Young White Man Charged With Be-
ing Implicated in Bank Robbery.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Durham, N. C., April 21.—A young
white man, Everett Crouch by name,
who has been living in Washington,
D. C., with his father and sister,
now in the Durham county jail under
the charge of being implicated in the
robbery of the Bank of Orange, at
Hillsboro, N. C., on the night of April
12. His bond has been fixed at \$5-
000. He was given a preliminary
hearing yesterday, at which time he
asked for a continuance of his case
until Friday next. He talks freely,
and gives a lengthy account of his
travels and tramps. He had a chum
named Hammond, who left Crouch be-
fore the latter was arrested. Crouch
says Hammond is a native of Balti-
more, and was a chauffeur, and that
Hammond's father was prominently
connected with some insurance com-
pany. Detectives are now hunting
for Hammond. Crouch laughs at the
idea that he is guilty of breaking the
vaults of the Hillsboro bank. Just
how strong the case is against him
cannot now be determined, as the State
has given out no intimation of the
evidence it has gathered.

The Republicans held their county
convention yesterday afternoon. It
was almost unanimously a Roosevelt
affair. There was but one Taft ad-
vocate, and his resolution to endorse
the administration was voted down.
He could not even get a second to
his motion. All of the delegates to
the State convention were instructed
for Colonel Roosevelt.